SKI TRAILS

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ski resort Friday with the giant slalom races to be run off Saturday and Sunday.

The World Cup ski races determine the best skiers on a point system in a number of specified races in Europe and the U.S. during the season.

Current leader is the veteran Austrian Karl Schranz, who is six points ahead of second-place Patrick Russel of France and Gustavo Thoeni of Italy. Michele Jacot of France is leading the women racers.

Along with the top European racers, most members of the Canadian and U.S. teams will be at the races except for those who are preparing for the final World Cup races the following weekend in Bergen, Norway.

The top U.S. hopes are Spider Sabich and Hank Kashiwa who finished in the top 10 last weekend at Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Billy Kidd, who won the combined FIS championships at Val Gardena last month, is now skiing in the pro ranks. The U.S. women's team, led by Barbara Cochran, is expected to do well.

A "Save Our Skiing" week designated by the Southern Council of the Far West Ski Assn. netted the SOS fund more than $1,500 to campaign for a ski resort at Mineral King.

The fund will be used to encourage development of new ski areas and to attempt to block the efforts of conservationists, who are opposed to proposed ski areas like Mineral King.

Half the total was raised by Westwood Ski Club and Single Ski Club. Southern California lift tow operators, national ski patrolmen and the ski association made up the other donations.

Bear Valley, east of Stockton, plans to hold a winter carnival starting next weekend. The week-long festivities include ski bob, ski doo, masquerade and cross-country races.